



POLISH JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

The POLISH JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY publishes only papers written in English. Submission of a manuscript implies that the paper has not been published before and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. All submissions will be evaluated by at least two independent reviewers, one Associate Editor and the Editor-in-Chief. The suggested handling time will be one week for editors and three weeks for reviewers and author revisions.

TYPES OF PAPERS

Research papers report original research.

Data papers consist of substantial, well-documented datasets and do not require formal analyses, but must include a detailed and transparent description of methods and metadata. The data presented in these papers will be freely reusable by others, provided that the original publication is properly cited.

Reviews must either be synthetic and make a substantial contribution to ecological theory or include a meta-analysis. Reviews with meta-analyses must provide the underlying data in a supplemental file.

Natural history notes cover an interesting observation accompanied by a clear description of the interesting aspects of the observation and how it modifies existing scientific views and by at least a photo, audio or video evidence.

Forum papers are short papers of new ideas or an opinion on an important topic to encourage discussion about ecological theory.

Comments are short contributions about recently published papers in the Polish Journal of Ecology or outside that are relevant for ecological science. Authors of the original paper will have the opportunity to respond. Both comments and responses will undergo the same peer review as the other paper categories.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Authors are not required to format manuscripts according to the journal's style at initial submission but should keep formatting to a minimum. The introduction must adequately cover relevant and related literature. Methods must be detailed, transparent, and unambiguous. Results must be clearly presented, with a preference for direct presentation of data. Authors must report at least sample sizes and effect sizes for all analysed parameters and should favour informative statistics (e.g. confidence intervals, Akaike Information Criterion) over sole reliance on significance testing. Manuscripts should be written in simple, active, and unambiguous language. We pay particular attention to ensuring that the

manuscript fulfils the promises outlined in its title and objectives or hypotheses. The journal will adopt the Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CRediT), allowing authors to describe individual contributions in a standardized manner. Authors should select appropriate roles from the CRediT taxonomy and provide this information at submission. Authors may use artificial intelligence tools to improve the clarity and quality of their writing, writing code, analyses, or literature searches provided that all content is carefully checked for accuracy. Authors who use AI need to clearly describe in detail how they used these tools in the methods section. There are no formal limits on paper length, however, all papers should always be written as concisely as possible and focus on presenting as much data as possible.

Authors should send the manuscript as a single pdf file with continuous line numbers by e-mail to the Editor: **pje@miiz.waw.pl**. Put the email addresses of all co-authors in Cc of the submission email. Additionally, provide all underlying data and code of the manuscript in the initial submission as supplemental data file (e.g. xlsx, csv).

Manuscript preparation checklist

Writing and language

- Use the active voice throughout the manuscript and clearly identify the actor in every sentence.
- Use self-made abbreviations only if necessary.
- Ensure the manuscript is edited by a native English speaker or an AI tool.
- Carefully proofread the entire manuscript before resubmission.
- Use SI (International System) units.
- Provide 5-7 key words characterising the paper.
- Provide the ORCID for each author and the email address of the corresponding author.

Formatting

- Apply minimal formatting only.
- Use your word processor's Styles function for headings (for example, Heading 1).
- Use no more than three heading levels.
- Use consistent line spacing throughout the manuscript.
- Do not add spacing before or after paragraphs or lines.
- Do not indicate where figures or tables should be placed in the text.
- Use the table function in your text programme for building tables, not tabs or spaces.

Statistical Reporting

- Prioritise parameter estimates, confidence intervals and information theory criteria (for example, Akaike Information Criterion) over significance testing.
- If P values are reported provide exact values with three decimals (for example, $P = 0.013$).
- Use $P < 0.001$ only when the value is smaller than 0.001.
- Do not report data with more digits than the precision of the measurements.

Data Presentation and Transparency

- Present all results directly as parameter estimates in tables or figures.
- Provide all underlying data in a supplementary file using commonly accepted formats (for example, .xlsx or .csv).
- Ensure that every figure and table is fully interpretable on its own. Include all necessary explanations in the legend. Define all abbreviations used in the figure or table within the legend.